

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The City of San Diego's Red Light Photo Enforcement Program is a joint effort of the City Council, Traffic Engineering Division and Police Department.

For more information on the program please visit our webpage at www.sandiego.gov.

We'd appreciate your comments or suggestions, please send them by e-mail to redlightphoto@sandiego.gov or you can call

(619) 533-3126. A Red

Light Photo Enforcement

Traffic Engineer will

respond to your inquiry.

Charlotte, NC showed a 72% reduction in red light violations and a 25% decrease in total accidents at the twenty intersections with red light cameras.

What if I don't have a front license plate on my vehicle? Will I get a ticket?

Yes, the new revised camera system in San Diego will now take multiple photos of the front *and* rear of the vehicle. Whichever license plate is legible will be used for the citation.

What happens if I'm in the intersection when the light changes color?

You will only receive a red light photo citation if you enter the intersection *after* the signal turns red. If you find yourself "trapped" in the intersection while the signal turns from yellow to red, you will not get a citation.

What if I 'turn right on red'?

The camera will only activate when the speed would indicate a pending red light violation.

What if I received a citation for a vehicle I'd previously sold?

You should complete the Section D (included with the citation) and return it to the Traffic Violations Bureau, P.O. Box 910474, San Diego, CA 92127.

What if the registered owner of the vehicle was not the driver at the time of the violation?

If you did not own or were not driving the vehicle at the time of the violation, fill out the information on form Section D on the back the citation. This will identify the actual violator. The Section D form must be completely filled out and returned to the Traffic Violations Bureau, P.O. Box 910474, San Diego, CA 92127 at least ten days prior to the appearance date. The citation will then be re-issued to the correct violator. Do not send the Section D to the Court.

Will I have an opportunity to review the photographs with an officer?

You can schedule an appointment to view photographs of the violation. Viewing days will be pre-designated weekdays and will be held at the San Diego Police Department Traffic Division, 9265 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA. Unscheduled visitors can view photographs, but only at the availability of the office staff. Registered owner/violator (only) may request a viewing of the photographs by calling the Traffic Violations Bureau at **(800) 369-5352**.



City of San Diego

Red Light Photo Enforcement Program



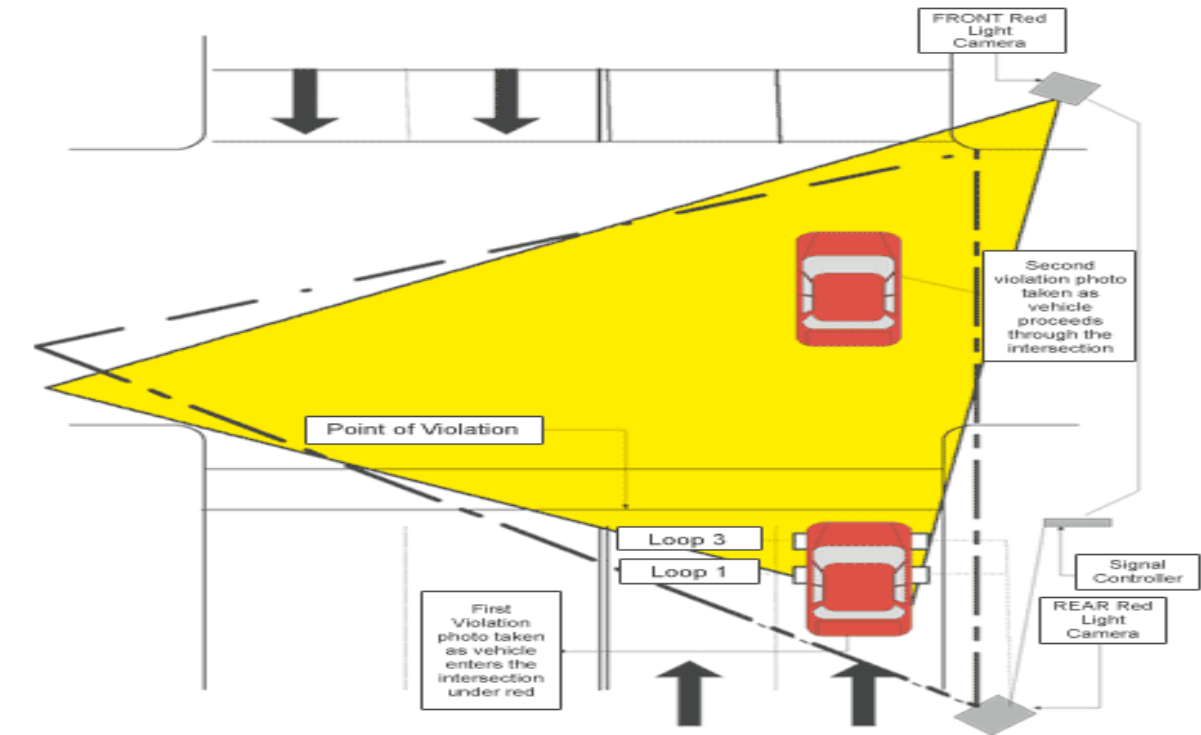
Safe Lights for San Diego

San Diego's Red Light Photo Enforcement Program



WHY DO WE NEED RED LIGHT CAMERAS

There are over one million motor vehicle accidents each year nationwide. Red light violations are a major factor in the majority of them. According to research, motorists are more likely to be injured in collisions involving red light violations than in any other types of accident. Red Light Photo Enforcement significantly decreases red light violations and increases motorist awareness even at an unmonitored intersection.



More and more cities are turning to Red Light Photo Enforcement to combat red light violations. Currently, twenty-nine cities and/or counties in California, including the City of El Cajon, have approved photo enforcement programs to protect their communities.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS IN SAN DIEGO

In 1996, California enacted California Vehicle Code Section 21455.5, which authorized government entities to use automated photo enforcement systems at intersections. In 1998, San Diego began its own Red Light Photo Safety (RLPS) program.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

A red light camera system is connected to the traffic signal and to sensors buried in the pavement at the crosswalk or stop line. The cameras are mounted in enclosures at selected intersections. Red light photo takes four pictures of vehicles that run a red light:

The first photo from each camera shows the vehicle prior to entering the intersection **AFTER** the light has already turned red.

The second two photos show the vehicles progression through the intersection while the light is red.

The fourth photo is a close up of the driver's face.

The cameras record the date and time of the alleged violation, the location of the occurrence, the speed of the vehicle, and the length of time elapsed since the light turned red and the vehicle entered the intersection. After processing the photos are sent to a traffic officer who verifies the violation and a citation with images is sent to the vehicle's registered owner within 15 days of the violation.

San Francisco, CA: The number of red light runners dropped by 42% at photo-enforced intersections. Collisions caused by red light running decreased by approximately 10% citywide.

CITATIONS

Once activated, each intersection will provide a 30-day warning period. For the first 30 days, motorists caught running the red light will receive a warning notice in the mail advising them they were photographed in violation of the red light.

After the initial 30-day warning period, violators will be issued and mailed citations. The citations include the four photographs as well as the recorded violation information. Each citation carries a \$321 penalty. Failure to pay the fine or appear in court on the violation will result in an additional fine against the registered owner's driver's license.